

Accidents. They will also find that the Education Acts are not mentioned and that the book is hazy on relationships affecting the school doctor, the headmaster, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Local Education Authority. Many will disagree also with the advice that "a routine chest X-ray from the age of 13 is desirable", and will wonder that a first-aid box is necessary in the kitchen, but is not asked for elsewhere in the school.

Nevertheless, the main part of the book is on communicable diseases and here it is difficult to find faults. No school doctor can afford to be without a copy in the glove compartment of his car. A.L.W.

**LIVINGSTONE'S POCKET MEDICAL DICTIONARY (LOIS OAKES).** By Nancy Roper, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., R.N.T. Eleventh Edition. (Pp xvi+590. 9s 6d). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969.

THIS little book first published in 1933 is in its eleventh edition and has been many times reprinted. It has thus proved itself as a valuable aid, and it continues to fill an important place. It contrives to give much information in small space and, indeed, in some respects is more informative than some larger dictionaries. As well as brief, usually excellent, definitions it includes many relevant abbreviations, notes on urine testing, physiological normal values and even the telephone numbers of regional poison information centres. This book will be of great value to nurses and to the many ancillary workers in medicine. Many medical men will find it useful and, while not all will agree with all details of usage, it is a useful guide to all but the more specialised words in medicine.

**DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT AND EAR: A Handbook for Students and Practitioners.** By I. S. Hall and B. H. Coleman. Ninth Edition. (Pp. xii+443; figs. 88. 35s). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969.

THE ninth edition, appearing two years after the eighth, contains minor alterations and some new illustrations. In the treatment of sinusitis in children, antrum lavage and the indwelling tube is mentioned for the first time, although in general use for some years. There is now a short note on glandular fever and another on miscellaneous conditions of the neck, such as branchial cysts and fistula, thyroglossal cysts and fistula and lesions of the salivary glands. The colour illustrations of lesions of the tympanic membrane are improved. The old terminology 'catarrh of the Eustachian tube' is replaced by 'insufficiency of the Eustachian tube'. The use of grommet tubes in the treatment of chronic Eustachian insufficiency and secretory otitis media is now included. ACTH is strongly advised in the treatment of Bell's palsy. A good synopsis of chemo-therapy of cancer is given.

The ninth edition should continue to be popular with students, house surgeons and general practitioners. J.K.H.

**THE WORK OF A FAMILY DOCTOR.** By R. M. McGregor, O.B.E., T.D., M.B., Ch.B. (Pp. ix+266. 45s). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1969.

THE author of this book, a general practitioner of many years' experience, categorizes in detail the main diseases met in his general practice and during the eleven and a half years 1948-1960. He explains his methods of collecting his practice statistics to ensure accuracy. A discussion about the statistics of each disease contains references to particular cases the author has found to be of special interest and in these discussions therapeutic advice is given.

This book would be of value for reference purposes as it is an accurate record of the work of the practice. Its length could possibly be reduced without detracting from its value. The therapeutic advice offered may not be suitable for every reader, but contains material which would stimulate a reader to examine his own therapeutic efforts. The price of 45s. for the book appears to be a little excessive.

This book will be used mainly in a library as a reference book rather than on a general practitioner's book-shelf. A.G.McK.